

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
San Antonio Fire Department
MEMORANDUM

TO: SAFD and DSD Associates
FROM: Abel Flores, Fire Marshal
DATE: June 9, 2006
FILE: Code Interpretation Manual

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: CI2006-024

TITLE: Protection of Fire Alarm System Control Equipment

CODE EDITION: 2002 NFPA 72 – The National Fire Alarm Code – as adopted by the 2003 International Fire Code

SECTION: 3.3.39.1 and 4.4.5

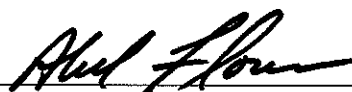
PURPOSE: To clarify the definition of a Fire Alarm Control Unit (Panel), hereafter referred to as the “Control Unit” and to determine the requirements for protection.

QUESTION 1: When applying Section 4.4.5, do remote power supplies meet the definition of a Fire Alarm Control Unit (Panel), as stated in Section 3.3.39.1?

ANSWER1: Yes. Section 3.3.39.1 states that “The control unit might also provide transfer of power to the notification appliances...”. Since remote power supplies provide a transfer of power to the notification appliances, they meet the definition of a Control Unit.

QUESTION 2: Are Sections 3.3.39.1 and 4.4.5 also applicable to remote annunciator panels?

ANSWER 2: No. Remote annunciator panels of any type are dependent upon the Control Unit for their functionality, thus classifying them as peripheral devices, which do not meet the definition of a Control Unit as stated in Section 3.3.39.1, and negating any requirement for protection under Section 4.4.5.



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